# Defense Dept. to Review Use of Lie Detectors

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The Defense Department, which has used them for years, agreed yesterday to try to discover if lie detectors really work.

The Department accepted the recommendation of the House Government Operations Committee which, among other things, called upon the Federal Government to start a comprehensive research program into the validity and reliability of polygraph examinations.

Assistant Defense Secretary Norman S. Paul said the Department would also issue a directive in the very near future which would restrict the use of such tests "to serious criminal cases and to situations where sensitive national security interests are involved."

This, too, tied in with a recommendation of the committee, which felt that lie detector examinations were being too loosely and frequently administered to Federal employes.

Paul, in a letter to Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), said the directive would also make sure that lie detector tests were truly "voluntary" and that the refusal of an employe to take a test would not be held against him "except in sensitive national security cases."

Moss is chairman of the Government Operations Subcommittee. The panel began an investigation into the Government's use of lie detectors in April, 1963.

The subcommittee discovered that Federal agencies were administering thousands of tests a year, often without proper safeguards. It found that those giving the tests had widely disparate backgrounds, ranging from individuals with only a high school diploma to others with college degrees.